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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Theresa L. O'Keefe

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Group:

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For:

USE OF HMGB FRAGMENTS AS ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENTS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment and Reply to Restriction Requirement is being filed in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 26, 2006 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

An extension of time to respond to the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows: